

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MS. GLADYS ADINA ABRAHAM

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Gladys Adina Abraham on the most special and significant occasion of the renaming of the Kirwan Terrace School in her honor.

When historians look at the success story of the U.S. Virgin Islands in the 20th century—from islands purchased for \$25 million in 1917 and said to be not worth the price, and its labeling as a “poorhouse” by a visiting President, to the modern thriving American Caribbean metropolis, with its urban center and suburbs, a thriving middle class and a university fulfilling its function for more than 40 years as one of the magnets and engines for socioeconomic progress in the region—the heroes who will be undoubtedly identified, are the 20th century Virgin Islands teachers. I am amazed and inspired by their accomplishments against the odds of geographical location and lack of resources at that time and the legacy they continue to create today. These educators, both men and women, on all three islands that comprise the U.S. Virgin Islands encouraged their students to strive for the best. It is this spirit, personified by the life service and contribution of Ms. Gladys Dina Abraham, which we honor.

Ms. Abraham received her Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Elementary Education from New York University, was awarded a Fulbright scholarship in 1956 to study sociology in India, and received a Masters of Arts in Psychology from Columbia University in 1962. Like others in her generation, Ms. Abraham could have taken her degrees from our islands’ educational institutions and been better remunerated elsewhere. Instead, she returned home and shared her expertise with the children of the Virgin Islands; enlarging their world, expanding their horizons and inspiring their pursuit of knowledge as she served as teacher and later principal at Sibilly, Lockhart and first at Kirwan Terrace Elementary School.

From the inception, Ms. Abraham established a standard of excellence in education with far less funding, essentially no technology and less educational training and certifications than are required today. Her standards produced students who became governors, legislators, church, business and civic leaders. Our community owes a debt of gratitude to Ms. Abraham, and others like her, who taught our children well and gave them a stake in the future of the Virgin Islands.

Kirwan Terrace School was originally named for a former Member of Congress who was instrumental in providing funding to build the neighborhood in which the school now sits. And while we did right to honor Congressman Kirwan—as in almost everything else we have received in our history—the school came about because of the insistence and advocacy of the community; in particular, the urging of the mothers. We thank them and Ms. Abraham for inspiring us and generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that on behalf of my family, staff and the 109th Congress that I extend my profound congratula-

tions and thanks to Ms. Abraham on the renaming of the Kirwan Terrace School in her honor.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, MILITARY QUALITY OF LIFE AND VETERANS AFFAIRS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 19, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5385) making appropriations for the military quality of life functions of the Department of Defense, military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes:

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Chairman, the Military Quality of Life-Veteran’s Administration appropriations bill we are voting on today is not nearly as good a bill as it should have been. I will support it today, but I’m very disappointed in the Republican leadership’s priorities reflected in this legislation.

The House Armed Services Committee, on which I sit, authorized these projects in the authorization bill that the House passed earlier this month. The Administration budget also requested these 20 projects, all of which are conventional military construction projects—things like hangars, barracks and unit headquarters.

To try to square the military priorities funded in this bill with the budget resolution the Republican leadership forced through the House, the Appropriations Committee used budget gimmickry to designate \$507 million for 20 routine military construction projects as an ‘emergency’ so that this funding would not count against the bill’s allocation.

Those in the Republican leadership concerned more about finding money for tax cuts than for our troops decided to cut these military construction projects today. Because of the projects’ ‘emergency’ funding status, Republicans chose to strike all \$507 million.

Regardless of whether or not they are labeled as ‘emergency funding,’ for bookkeeping reasons, they are valid and needed projects, selected through long-term planning exercises developed by the services, vetted through the Administration, and requested by the President.

The fact that the Republican budget put tax cuts ahead of the needs of our troops strikes me as backward and wrong. These are military priorities as defined by the President of the United States, and the majority chose to ignore them. They want to have it both ways—to say they support the troops, but also to be able to cut taxes for wealthy Americans. If this isn’t a good example of how this approach doesn’t work, I don’t know what is.

TRIBUTE TO HARRISBURG HIGH SCHOOL BULLDOGS BOYS TRACK TEAM

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Harrisburg High School Bulldogs Boys Track Team. The Bulldogs won their Sectional Track Meet on May 19, 2006 by a substantial margin.

Continuing their tradition of success, this is the Bulldogs’ seventh consecutive team sectional track title. The Bulldogs finished first in the 4 x 100 relay, 100 meter dash, 4 x 200 relay, 400 meter dash and 4 x 400 relay. The Bulldogs team members also had many personal best times.

It is my pleasure to congratulate Coach Clint Simpson and the Bulldogs Track Team which includes Alex Maddox, Brett Brachaer, Caleb Joyner, Tony Cossette, Michael Woning, Nick Bebout, Madison Medley, Blake Fitts, Aaron Winters, Kyle Alexander, Luke Ragan, Dustin Moulton, Michael Muggee, Logan Cummysky, Mitchell Berry, Jake Stevers, Nick King, John Fuller, Jacob Sais, and Jeremy Martin on their success. I wish the Bulldogs continued success as they compete at the Illinois High School Athletic Association State Track and Field Tournament.

Again, congratulations!

RECOGNIZING BRIAN J. SHRYOCK FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Brian J. Shryock, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 66, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Brian has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Brian has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Brian J. Shryock for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING CHIEF DEPUTY SHERIFF DELAYNE D. OTT

HON. CHRIS CHOCOLA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Mr. CHOCOLA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a dedicated protector of our community, Chief Deputy Sheriff Delayne D. Ott.

Deputy Sheriff Ott joined the LaPorte County Sheriff’s Department on January 15, 1967

and has served our community for 39 years. He holds the record for the longest serving member in the history of the LaPorte County Sheriff's Department.

He has served as a sergeant, captain and major and has held his current rank as Chief Deputy since January 1, 1999. He has been a certified Firearms instructor at the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy and has been the firearms instructor for LaPorte County for over 30 years, and has shot in pistol competitions nationwide for the past 25 years.

The LaPorte County Firearms Training Facility was dedicated in his name on Monday, May 15, 2006 for his unwavering dedication and commitment to firearms training and safety for LaPorte County officers.

He is also a devout family man, and he and his wife Phyllis have three children and four grandchildren.

Chief Deputy Sheriff Delayne D. Ott has shown his commitment to excellence and his undying loyalty to our community and its citizens. It is my honor to stand here today as his Congressman, and recognize him for his service.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5427), making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes:

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in opposition to the proposed amendment by the gentleman from Georgia. The three States of Alabama, Georgia, and Florida have areas which are dependent on the same water sources. While I sympathize with all those needs, the language in the bill is necessary to prevent the Corps of Engineers from interfering in litigation which is meant to allocate those resources in a fair way among the three States.

Mr. Chairman, in 2005 we learned that the Corps of Engineers planned to revise the manuals which govern water sharing between three States—Alabama, Georgia, and Florida. The corps' ACT manual has not been revised since it was written in 1951, even though nine dams have been built and successfully operated in the ACT Basin since then. In other words, there is no urgent need to revise the manuals, and doing so impacts the water supply of millions of persons in the Southeast. Furthermore, this matter is still in Federal court, and allowing the corps to revise these manuals now will interfere with ongoing litigation.

Mr. Chairman, we have tried to work this issue out with the corps directly. On April 14, 2005, the entire Alabama delegation sent a letter to Lt. Gen. Carl Strock, Commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, asking that

he explain the corps' actions in this matter. In response, on April 26, 2005 Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works John Woodley wrote that the corps "will withdraw and disclaim any intention to re-evaluate or update the relevant operating procedures and manuals until all relevant litigation has concluded, or the three States' Governors reach an agreement."

However, Mr. Chairman, after that, the corps did not hold to their commitment. In a letter to Governor Bob Riley of Alabama, dated January 30, 2006, Assistant Secretary Woodley stated that since the relevant litigation has concluded, the corps will now begin revising its manuals. This litigation, however, is not concluded. My understanding is that the ACF litigation has been appealed, and the ACT litigation is still actively underway.

Mr. Chairman, if the corps' manuals revisions are allowed to go forward, it will cause great harm to the State of Alabama. We will have inadequate water for drinking, power generation, navigation, recreation, and wildlife. For this reason, it is essential all three States come to a mutual equitable water sharing agreement. It is not appropriate for the corps to unilaterally step in and decree water distribution without the approval of all three States.

With all due respect to Mr. DEAL's concerns, I must ask for a "no" vote in the amendment.

HIRAM BINGHAM STAMP

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a son of Connecticut's Second District, the district I am privileged to represent in this House.

The Bingham family has lived in Salem Connecticut for many generations. I have always been impressed with the Bingham family's history of dedication to public service. Hiram Bingham IV is a prime example of this dedication—only exemplified by the fact that few people actually knew the extent of his good work, including his own family.

In 1988, Hiram passed away. A few years after his death, one of his sons discovered a bundle of documents tucked away in the attic at the family home containing records from Hiram's work at the U.S. State Department. These records revealed an untold story of Hiram's courage and heroism.

Hiram's family and friends knew he worked for the State Department, but he rarely mentioned the details of his employment. From 1939 to 1941, Hiram Bingham served as our Nation's vice consul in Marseilles, France. The records in the closet revealed that while serving at his post Hiram helped save at least 2,500 people from the Nazis, including the artist, Marc Chagall and Nobel Prize winning biochemist Otto Meyerhoff. During these years, this courageous individual issued papers that gave safe passage to Jewish and non-Jewish refugees. He also personally escorted dozens of people across the border into Spain.

It is of no small interest that this man of principle acted in direct opposition to official

State Department orders that inhibited immigration of refugees to the United States. Hiram Bingham's action defied the Nazi war machine, Vichy France and his own Nation's State Department. Ignoring the consequences of being caught, he went about his work, quietly saving as many people as he could.

When his superiors discovered his activities in the spring of 1941, he was removed from his post and transferred to Buenos Aires. In 1946, he resigned because of the government's failure to pursue the Nazi presence in Latin America.

After learning of his father's extraordinary efforts, his son Robert Kim Bingham, began petitioning the U.S. Postal Service in 1998 to issue a stamp in honor of his father. During that time, I was serving in the Connecticut General Assembly and Robert asked me to send a letter of support for the stamp to the Post Master General. I took the letter down to the floor during our final week of session and as we worked late into the evening every member of the General Assembly signed onto that letter—representing the first time in memory that every member had signed a letter circulated for any purpose. Robert and his family should take pride in the overwhelming support his dream had with the people of Connecticut.

It has been my honor to work with the Bingham family and be part of the process that brought us here today. I was pleased to read in a newspaper in my district that of the 21 issues that will be released this year, the most requests came in for Hiram Bingham. I am proud that the U.S. Postal Service has included Hiram Bingham in its tribute to American Diplomats.

Last year, I had an opportunity to visit Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority, in Jerusalem. Hearing and seeing the stories of survival made Hiram's work even more profound for me.

Evil is often easy to identify, yet it is often difficult to oppose. To do so requires courage and a strong moral core. Hiram Bingham had both.

He put his moral obligation above his career and he put his personal safety above his career. He paid a price, but heroes are often required to do just that.

Hiram Bingham did not solicit accolades for what he had done. He did not desire to surpass others at all cost—he desired to serve others at all cost. And that is as good a definition of a "hero" as I have seen.

Hiram Bingham could have gone along with the orders that came to his desk, but he chose not to. Going along is always easy. Doing the right thing is often difficult. But by doing the difficult thing, Hiram Bingham is today known as one of 11 "righteous diplomats" who together saved 200,000 people from the Holocaust. Today the descendants of those 200,000 individuals total more than 1 million. That is a tremendous legacy for one's life's work.

I am pleased that this long overdue honor is being awarded to Hiram Bingham, a "righteous diplomat" who put his sense of right and wrong and his capacity to help others ahead of personal considerations.